

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-9 are canceled without prejudice.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate status identifier for each claim.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 10-22 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vainio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,721) in view of Bayless (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,118). While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections of claims 1-2 and 5-9 or the associated reasoning as set forth in the Office Action, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-2 and 5-9 without prejudice in order to advance prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to present the subject matter of claims 1-2 and 5-9 in a later application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In section 6 of the Office Action, claim 3 is objected to as being allowable except for its dependency on a rejected base claim. Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Again, while Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection of claim 1 or the associated reasoning as set forth in the Office Action, Applicants hereby cancel claim 3 without prejudice in order to advance prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to present the subject matter of claim 3 in a later application.

In section 8 of the Office Action, claims 10-22 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance for claims 10-22.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

While Applicants agree that the allowed claims 10-22 recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the cited references, Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce in the reasoning as set forth in the Office Action. Moreover, Applicants note that various other subject matter and/or combinations of subject matter may be patentable for reasons other than those set forth in the Office Action. Applicants expressly reserve the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability and/or allowance in connection with the present application or any future proceeding.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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